

Calls for Serious Federal Investment in Coastal Restoration, Levees Throughout Louisiana
August 13, 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) made the following statement in response to President Obama's announcement that he will visit New Orleans, LA, on August 29th to mark the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

"When the President visits, he will see the enormous progress Louisianians have made over the past five years in rebuilding and recovering from Katrina and Rita. I urge the President to extend his visit and travel outside of New Orleans, so he can see the critical hurricane protection and coastal restoration needs that still exist throughout south Louisiana.

"For Louisiana to fully recover, we need a serious federal commitment to rebuilding our coastline and protecting our homes and communities in south Louisiana. Our coastal wetlands serve as the first line of defense against hurricanes, yet we are still losing a football field of land every half hour, leaving our towns more exposed to storms from the Gulf with each passing day. The House of Representatives recently passed my amendment to invest over \$1 billion in penalties from BP in coastal restoration projects along the Gulf, and I encourage the President to support the measure.

"And while the levee system has been significantly strengthened in New Orleans, hurricane protection throughout the rest of south Louisiana is still well below what is needed to protect our people from another Katrina or Rita.

"I invite the President to stay at least a few days in south Louisiana, so he can see firsthand the need for a major federal investment in levees and coastal restoration that will protect thousands of American citizens from the next major hurricane."

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